

February 28, 2024
***411: Week 8**

So far we've been tracing through the Shadow of the Old Testament to the LIGHT that is coming when Jesus came into the world to announce a New Covenant. Like any big building, there has to be an equally big Foundation, and that's what much of the Old Testament is laid out to be! It introduced us to Themes such as...

- The Beginning of Life
- Salvation
- Judgment
- Blood
- Law
- Atonement

As divine as these themes are, they all point to the reality that would one day be fully realized in Christ! Our study has done something else. Without seeing these truths in their Biblical Order, it can be tough to make sense out of WHAT is truly happening, and maybe even more challenging, as to WHY?!

Most of the Rules and the Law aren't given to punish us or limit us. They are given to Protect us and Provide for us!

Ultimately, Rules or Law are established so we can be BLESSED.

I. Unconditional Love

Most of our Love is limited, it's conditional. Something has to happen in US to dispense LOVE!

But that's not how God operates! His LOVE is very different. He's not...

- Smitten with your appearance
- Bowled over by your personality
- Knocked out by your good works, or swept away by the sheer genius of your talent!

He loves you because He loves you!

You see, the roadblock to a lot of people having a connection with God is that we put US in the equation! Get this Truth. God's LOVE has nothing to do with US at all!

So God's LOVE is Unconditional, but His BLESSING is Conditional!

Question: If it's true that God loves Unconditionally, why does Obedience matter?

We're back to Him Protecting and Providing for us. I think we all understand how "off the rails" our society would quickly become, if we could get away with anything we desired, because we lived in a bubble of unconditional LOVE, without boundaries!

Question: So how do we match Unconditional Love with Obedience and Boundaries?

God's goodness or His judgment is not arbitrary, it is enacted by way of CHOICE. The one thing his love proves is we know right where we stand. The right choices will always bring us/keep us in the right relationship!

The same LOVE that was once expressed in intimate union is now expressed in relentless determination. That is a small picture of the love of God for US!

God made an unconditional covenant, meaning He is committed to do whatever it takes to bring His people out of sin and into His Blessing!

Here's the 411 of the BLESSING:

When you enter a covenant with God, you need to know that He will never give up on you and He will never let you go. He is not content to have a relationship with you in name only. He wants to walk with you and make you a channel of his blessing in the world. He cannot do that while you are distant from Him, and so He will fight to bring you back!